



# ROYALSTON

## Worcester County



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## NARRATIVE

### **Narrative**

If time appears to be standing still in Royalston, it's probably because the clock on the Common stopped again. It has been good of late, though, but folks do miss the hourly bell which hasn't struck since the cable holding the box of stones that served as a counterweight snapped and the box crashed to the church basement.

Set hard against the Millers River on the east, New Hampshire on the north, and astride ridges carved by the ancient glacial runoff, Royalston has matchless scenic beauty throughout all seasons. Three waterfalls, state forests and thousands of acres of conservation lands set aside for flood control present a diversity of recreational opportunities to an appreciate public. The land was difficult to farm, as many of the early residents discovered who then fled to the woolen mill as soon as it was in operation. A warm, friendly community of approximately a thousand, good neighbors are its most cherished asset. Royalston has sent its sons and daughters to wars, a Governor to the State House, and to fame and fortune abroad. The town amply serves the social, cultural and essential services of its rural community.

(Narrative supplied by community)



# GEOGRAPHY

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## Location

North central Massachusetts, bordered by Richmond and Fitzwilliam, New Hampshire, on the north; Winchendon on the east; Templeton, Phillipston, and Athol on the south; and Orange and Warwick on the west. Royalston is about 28 miles west of Fitchburg, 43 miles northwest of Worcester, 74 miles northwest of Boston, and 193 miles from New York City.

**Total Area:** 42.47 sq. miles

**Land Area:** 41.88 sq. miles

**Population:** 1,147

**Density:** 27 per sq. mile

## Climate

(National Climatic Data Center)

(Tully Lake Station)

Normal temperature in January.....18.8°F

Normal temperature in July.....69.3°F

Normal annual precipitation.....43.1"

## U.S.G.S. Topographical Plates

Royalston, Mt. Grace, Winchendon, Athol

## Regional Planning Agency

Montachusett

## Metropolitan Statistical Area

(1993 Definition)



# GOVERNMENT

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## Municipal Offices

Main Number: (978) 249-9641

[Telephone Numbers for Public Information](#)

## Form of Government

Board of Selectmen

Open Town Meeting

## Year Incorporated

As a town: 1763

## Registered Voters (Secretary of State 1994)

	Number	%	
Total Registered	670		
Democrats	122	18.2	%
Republicans	98	14.6	%
Other parties	2	0.3	%
Unenrolled Voters	448	66.9	%

## Legislators

[Senators and Representatives by City and Town](#)



# DEMOGRAPHICS

**Table DP-1. Profile of General Demographic Characteristics: 2000**

Geographic Area: Royalston town, Worcester County, Massachusetts

[For information on confidentiality protection, nonsampling error, and definitions, see text]

Subject	Number	Percent	Subject	Number	Percent
Total population.....	1,254	100.0	HISPANIC OR LATINO AND RACE		
SEX AND AGE			Total population.....	1,254	100.0
Male.....	649	51.8	Hispanic or Latino (of any race).....	14	1.1
Female.....	605	48.2	Mexican.....	5	0.4
Under 5 years.....	71	5.7	Puerto Rican.....	8	0.6
5 to 9 years.....	103	8.2	Cuban.....	-	-
10 to 14 years.....	122	9.7	Other Hispanic or Latino.....	1	0.1
15 to 19 years.....	100	8.0	Not Hispanic or Latino.....	1,240	98.9
20 to 24 years.....	42	3.3	White alone.....	1,230	98.1
25 to 34 years.....	134	10.7	RELATIONSHIP		
35 to 44 years.....	241	19.2	Total population.....	1,254	100.0
45 to 54 years.....	224	17.9	In households.....	1,254	100.0
55 to 59 years.....	67	5.3	Householder.....	449	35.8
60 to 64 years.....	27	2.2	Spouse.....	277	22.1
65 to 74 years.....	59	4.7	Child.....	436	34.8
75 to 84 years.....	46	3.7	Own child under 18 years.....	346	27.6
85 years and over.....	18	1.4	Other relatives.....	36	2.9
Median age (years).....	38.0	(X)	Under 18 years.....	11	0.9
18 years and over.....	889	70.9	Nonrelatives.....	56	4.5
Male.....	466	37.2	Unmarried partner.....	34	2.7
Female.....	423	33.7	In group quarters.....	-	-
21 years and over.....	849	67.7	Institutionalized population.....	-	-
62 years and over.....	139	11.1	Noninstitutionalized population.....	-	-
65 years and over.....	123	9.8	HOUSEHOLD BY TYPE		
Male.....	56	4.5	Total households.....	449	100.0
Female.....	67	5.3	Family households (families).....	330	73.5
RACE			With own children under 18 years.....	162	36.1
One race.....	1,247	99.4	Married-couple family.....	277	61.7
White.....	1,237	98.6	With own children under 18 years.....	137	30.5
Black or African American.....	1	0.1	Female householder, no husband present.....	32	7.1
American Indian and Alaska Native.....	-	-	With own children under 18 years.....	17	3.8
Asian.....	7	0.6	Nonfamily households.....	119	26.5
Asian Indian.....	-	-	Householder living alone.....	92	20.5
Chinese.....	-	-	Householder 65 years and over.....	32	7.1
Filipino.....	2	0.2	Households with individuals under 18 years.....	173	38.5
Japanese.....	-	-	Households with individuals 65 years and over.....	94	20.9
Korean.....	-	-	Average household size.....	2.79	(X)
Vietnamese.....	-	-	Average family size.....	3.27	(X)
Other Asian <sup>1</sup> .....	5	0.4	HOUSING OCCUPANCY		
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander.....	-	-	Total housing units.....	526	100.0
Native Hawaiian.....	-	-	Occupied housing units.....	449	85.4
Guamanian or Chamorro.....	-	-	Vacant housing units.....	77	14.6
Samoan.....	-	-	For seasonal, recreational, or		
Other Pacific Islander <sup>2</sup> .....	-	-	occasional use.....	56	10.6
Some other race.....	2	0.2	Homeowner vacancy rate (percent).....	1.3	(X)
Two or more races.....	7	0.6	Rental vacancy rate (percent).....	1.8	(X)
Race alone or in combination with one			HOUSING TENURE		
or more other races: <sup>3</sup>			Occupied housing units.....	449	100.0
White.....	1,244	99.2	Owner-occupied housing units.....	393	87.5
Black or African American.....	1	0.1	Renter-occupied housing units.....	56	12.5
American Indian and Alaska Native.....	1	0.1	Average household size of owner-occupied units.....	2.86	(X)
Asian.....	8	0.6	Average household size of renter-occupied units.....	2.34	(X)
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander.....	-	-			
Some other race.....	7	0.6			

- Represents zero or rounds to zero. (X) Not applicable.

<sup>1</sup> Other Asian alone, or two or more Asian categories.

<sup>2</sup> Other Pacific Islander alone, or two or more Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander categories.

<sup>3</sup> In combination with one or more of the other races listed. The six numbers may add to more than the total population and the six percentages may add to more than 100 percent because individuals may report more than one race.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2000.



# HOUSING CHARACTERISTICS

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**Home Sales** (Banker & Tradesman) -

[Town Stats - Free market Statistics](#)

**Subsidized Housing Units** (DHCD 1998)

[DHCD Subsidized Housing Inventory](#)

Subsidized Housing Units: The number of housing units which count toward the municipality's 10% goal for low- and moderate-income housing. It includes both subsidized affordable units and market rate units in certain eligible subsidized developments.

**Public Housing Units** (DHCD 1999)

Conventional State: 0

Conventional Federal: 0

**Rental Assistance**(DHCD 1999)

State (MRVP: 0

Federal (Section 8): 0



# TRANSPORTATION

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## TRANSPORTATION AND ACCESS

The principal highway of northern Worcester county is State Route 2, the old Mohawk Trail, which runs across northern Massachusetts. State Route 140 and Interstate 190 connect the region to Worcester. The Springfield Terminal Railway line (the former Boston and Maine Railroad) parallels Route 2 and provides access to the network of intermodal facilities serving central and eastern Massachusetts.

### Major Highways

Principal highways are State Routes 32 and 68.

### Rail

There is no passenger service in Royalston, but the network of intermodal facilities serving Massachusetts is easily accessible. Freight rail service is available from the Springfield Terminal Railway. Contact number: (978) 663-1073

### Bus

Royalston is a member of the Montachusett Regional Transit Authority (MRTA). The MRTA provides paratransit services between Royalston and Athol two days a week through the Heritage Truck and Transit Company.

### Other

The Orange Municipal Airport, a General Aviation (GA) facility, is easily accessible. It has 2 asphalt runways 5,000'x 150' and 4,998'x 150'. Instrument approaches available: Non-precision.



# CULTURE AND RECREATION

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## LIBRARIES

[Board of Library Commissioners On-line Library Catalog](#)

## MUSEUMS

(American Association of Museums)

None

## RECREATION

[Telephone Numbers for Public Information](#)

**Recreational Facilities** (Recreational sites and activities)

[Department of Environmental Management Recreation Section](#)



# MISCELLANEOUS

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## HEALTH FACILITIES

(Dept. of Public Health 1992)

### Hospitals

None

### Long Term Care

None

### Hospices

None

### Rest Homes

None

### UTILITIES

[Telephone Numbers for Public Utilities](#)

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# ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

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NOTE: The COMMUNITY PROFILE draws information from a diversity of sources. The main source of information is listed under each section. In some instances comments submitted by the municipality were incorporated to correct and/or enhance the information obtained from the main source. However, no changes were made to those data bases which must be consistent throughout the state. DHCD has made efforts to ensure the accuracy of all data in the COMMUNITY PROFILES, but cannot take responsibility for any consequences arising from the use of the information contained in this document.